

Libertarians at **FreedomFest!**



Page 16

LP News

The Party of Principle™

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In This Issue:

Chair's Corner.....	2
LP Candidates.....	3-5, 7, 13
October Special Elections.....	5
AZ Fights GOP Attack.....	6
Arkansas Ballot Drive.....	7
David F. Nolan Office Fund...8-9	
NY Ballot Access Victory.....	9
Affiliate News.....	10-12
Wes Benedict Returns.....	12
2014 LP Convention.....	12, 16
LP News Releases.....	13-14
Libertarian Solutions.....	14-15
LP at FreedomFest.....	16



Divide on war in Syria, NSA spying creates opening for LP

President Barack Obama's threats of military strikes on Syria and revelations of the NSA's spying on Americans are polarizing both Democrats and Republicans — and this creates an opening for the Libertarian Party.

Overwhelming majorities of Democratic and Republican senators and congressmen have brazenly betrayed the Fourth Amendment in the name of national security. By landslides, they voted for the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), the Patriot Act, or the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). They continue to rationalize their unconstitutional votes — and stubbornly refuse to reconsider and reverse them.

Majorities in both parties regularly vote for foreign military intervention, and many were ready to back President Obama's threats to attack Syria.

But a growing number of incumbents, especially those who are up for re-election next year, are withdrawing their support on both issues in response to polls.

A majority of Americans want the U.S. military to stay out of Syria. They are also concerned with, and disapprove of, NSA spying on civilians, according to numerous national polls.


While Democrats and Republicans are torn between their loyalty to Big Government allies and fear of electoral backlash, the Libertarian Party's advocacy of what voters want has created an opening for the LP to gain political ground.

"The party has been presented with an opportunity to clearly define itself on the political landscape," said the *Washington Times* in its "Inside the Beltway" column.

The national LP is stepping up efforts to seize the opportunity, issuing press releases and a video, as well as networking with allies.


"EDWARD SNOWDEN IS A HERO, NOT A CRIMINAL. IF ELECTED, I WILL SUE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS AND SEEK DAMAGES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THEIR FOURTH AMENDMENT RIGHTS."

— KENNETH KAPLAN, 2013 LIBERTARIAN FOR GOVERNOR, NEW JERSEY



"I WILL SUPPORT EFFORTS TO DEMILITARIZE LAW ENFORCEMENT, REFORM ASSET FORFEITURE LAWS, PROTECT INTERNET FREEDOM, AND ROLL BACK DOMESTIC SPYING PROGRAMS."

— ROBERT SARVIS, 2013 LIBERTARIAN FOR GOVERNOR, VIRGINIA



LP video showcases Libertarian candidates on the Fourth Amendment.

"The party has been presented with an opportunity to clearly define itself on the political landscape," said the *Washington Times*.

Titled "The Libertarian awakening," the Sept. 5 *Times* column quoted LP Chair Geoffrey Neale: "Syria is not threatening our country. We have no national interest in intervening there. There are no reasons for the U.S. to support either the Assad dictatorship or the opposition warlords."

LP press releases have spawned a bump in news coverage by media outlets that include RT TV, PressTV, and radio talk shows.

Capitalizing on Americans' approval of whistleblower Edward Snowden for his revelations of the NSA's mass surveillance, the national LP released a video in August showcasing the party's consistent 42-year support of the Fourth Amendment, as expressed in both the party platform and in promises made by past and

current Libertarian candidates to repeal unconstitutional laws and take other measures to restore the Fourth.

The video includes a long list, assembled by LP National headquarters staff member Eric Dixon, of "offending" incumbent politicians who have voted for FISA, CISPA, the Patriot Act, the NDAA, or to fund U.S. agencies that engage in surveillance.

On July 4, several Libertarians spoke at Restore the Fourth rallies held in cities across America, including Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. Anthony Tellez, 2013 Libertarian for delegate in Virginia, and LP Political Director Carla Howell spoke at the rally in Washington.

Both the studio-recorded video and others recorded by rally attendees were widely circulated among libertarians and supporters of the Fourth Amendment.

Since Snowden's revelations were publicized in June, Libertarians in the Washington, D.C., area have joined a national coalition of Fourth Amendment supporters who are planning lobbying efforts and a major event on the Mall in D.C.

CHAIR'S CORNER

Priming the pump

by Geoffrey J. Neale, Chair



“The biggest problem the Libertarian Party has is that we’re undercapitalized.”

This statement was made to me by one of our state chairs, and I agree, but we’re not just talking about money. It’s human capital, too.

In order to follow our mission statement of “building a political party,” we measure our size not by cash in the bank, or revenues, but in members, donors, activists, candidates, voters, elected officials, and state affiliates.

The most important thing we can do to move liberty forward through the Libertarian Party is to become bigger, and it all starts with members. If we have a larger pool of members, it means we have more activists, donors, candidates, etc.

The last time we made a serious effort at outreach and prospecting was more than a decade ago. Since then our membership has dwindled, but we do seem to have reached a stable point. So how do we turn it all around?

We have had the same level of “dues” (\$25) since 1991. That’s nearly \$50 in today’s inflated money. The costs of providing the basic levels of support have just about doubled, but the revenues to pay for it have not. Also, the economies of scale work against us when we get smaller, and in our favor when we get larger. We are currently stuck in a long bad winter, and are constantly forced to eat our seed corn.

It’s partly my fault. Back in 2006, after the LNC doubled the “dues,” then eliminated them — with votes that did not record who voted for and who against the motions — I proposed two Bylaws changes: to require roll call votes for all “substantive motions,” and to take away the authority for setting the “dues” from the LNC.

The first was a great idea — the second was not. We should have left the authority to set the “dues” with the LNC, but required a super-majority to change them. Since then, although the authority to change the “dues” has been with the delegates, no one has seen fit to propose an increase.

Additionally, the ability of the LNC to innovate by trying new-mem-

ber rates, student rates, family rates, senior rates, etc., is just not there.

I am hoping that the delegates in 2014 will recognize that we as Libertarians must do what is necessary. I would be happy with an increase in dues, but I think the LNC must be empowered to set the dues — just not as easily as it once could.

Back in 1991 when the dues were set at \$25, a couple could go to the movies, including popcorn and drinks, for \$25. Today, you can still find movies that cost \$25 for two, but they don’t come with any snacks or drinks. We don’t live in 1991 anymore.

Of course we should, and are, trying to minimize our costs in multiple ways, but the savings cannot offset the increase in costs over the last 22 years. We have multiple efforts underway in our headquarters to integrate more efficient and effective practices, but sometimes it even costs money to save money.

But we cannot save our way into political success. In order to succeed, we have to grow. We cannot grow if we stay on a survival diet.

If every current member who gives the minimum \$25 per year increased their donations to \$50 per year, we would have an additional \$300,000. We could then do extensive outreach and prospecting, and our membership would grow. It doesn’t require a Bylaws change to make this happen — it just takes you deciding to help.

Given the current political situation, I think it is both possible and reasonable to double or triple our party membership by the 2016 elections, if we only get enough capital to start the ball rolling. An effective campaign of outreach will “prime the pump” in terms of both members and money, and the growth will begin and be sustained.

It may not be easy, but it’s just that simple.

It really is up to you.

The following individuals became Lifetime Members of the Libertarian Party between June 13, 2013, and Sept. 11, 2013:

Roger K. Baumberger

Doug DeWitt

Elaine DiMasi

Paul B. Duke

Stephen L. Hutson

Mary and Tom Laurent

Michael John Rollin

Dr. Richard H. Timberlake

The Libertarian Party grants Lifetime Membership to individuals who contribute at least \$1,000 during any 12-month period. Call 202-333-0008 to find out how much more you would need to donate to become a Lifetime Member today.

LPNews

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The Purposes of the Libertarian Party:

The party is organized to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Statement of Principles by: functioning as a libertarian political entity separate and distinct from all other political parties or movements; moving public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office; chartering affiliate parties throughout the United States and promoting their growth and activities; nominating candidates for president and vice president of the United States, and supporting party and affiliate party candidates for political office; and, entering into public information activities.

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Libertarian for governor in Virginia getting unusual media coverage

Despite a close contest between the Democrat and Republican in Virginia's high-visibility race for governor, Libertarian Rob Sarvis' campaign has been featured in both local and national press, including the *Washington Post*, the *Washington Times*, *Politico*, the *Huffington Post* and the national FoxNews.com.

Sarvis is facing two well-funded political heavyweights: Democrat Terry McAuliffe, a former Democratic National Committee chairman; and Republican state Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli. Both their campaigns are blanketing the airwaves with attacks on the other, creating an appetite for a third-party alternative.

Rob Sarvis, a 36-year-old Northern Virginia businessman and lawyer, is running on a platform to advance civil liberties and reduce government interference in busi-

ness. He proposes a general overhaul of the Virginia tax system, resulting in the elimination or drastic reduction of the state income tax.

His tax proposal also includes eliminating the car tax; business/professional/occupational licenses (BPOL); and machine and tools, merchant capital, and other business taxes that both burden employers and reduce business activity. Where possible, he wants to replace general taxes with user fees.

Sarvis vows to combat what he calls "crony capitalism." He aims to eliminate all regulations that insulate market incumbents from competition, all government subsidies of specific industries or companies, and all special tax and regulatory treatment of particular industries or firms.

continued on page 9...



Robert Sarvis appears on Fox 5 News

VA legislative candidates running to end state income tax, marijuana prohibition

If Libertarians running for the state House of Delegates this year have their way, Virginia families will save thousands of dollars because they will not have to pay state income taxes.

Government will become much smaller, because some of these candidates are pushing for an immediate 25 percent cut in the state budget.

"Taxes are too high, that's because Virginia's state spending is too high," said Dan Foster, a businessman from Chesapeake who is running for delegate in the 78th District. "I want to reduce both. If elected, I will file a budget bill that cuts state spending immediately by 25 percent or more."

Foster is one of six candidates fielded by the Libertarian Party this year for the Virginia House of Delegates election that will take place on Nov. 5.

The others include Jonathan Parrish in the 23rd District, Patrick Hagerty in the 33rd, Anthony Tellez in the 53rd, Laura Delhomme in the 47th, and Christopher Sullivan in the 55th.

They are all advocates for small government, protecting civil liberties from encroachment by various government bureaucracies, and allowing free markets to dominate Virginia's economic life.



Dan Foster



Jonathan Parrish



Patrick Hagerty



Anthony Tellez



Laura Delhomme



Christopher Sullivan

"If elected, I will file a budget bill that cuts state spending immediately by 25 percent or more."

— Dan Foster for Virginia Delegate

"Libertarians are people who support liberty," Parrish said. "We believe in your right to choose and to live your life as long as you do not harm others."

The Libertarian slate contends that both Republicans and Democrats talk about freedom but violate it at every step by giving voters more government rules and taxation instead.

Patrick Hagerty, a small business owner from Leesburg, agrees with Foster and vows to support his effort to reduce the state budget by 25 percent.

"Recently, the legislature and governor passed a massive tax increase on Virginians," Hagerty said. "It was passed with the support of Republicans, Democrats, and Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell. I oppose what they did. Each year, Virginia state government spends billions on health care and education, and over a billion dollars on public safety. I aim to cut waste and unneeded spending in these areas, as well as many other departments."

Laura Delhomme aims to limit government's involvement in transportation, which she believes drives up costs, reduces choice, creates congestion, and provides opportunities for corruption. The solution, she argues, is more free-market initiative.

"I oppose regulations that restrict the supply of taxis," Delhomme said. "I oppose restrictions against private buses and jitney services. I would not raise any taxes or fees to pay for transportation solutions. If more money is to be spent on transportation, I would get those funds by cutting spending on other programs."

All the candidates support legalization of marijuana and ending the costly War on Drugs.

"Marijuana prohibition comes at a tremendous financial cost to our state and to our individual freedom," insisted Christopher Sullivan, a former U.S. Marine who lives with his family in Beavertown.

"According to NORML, Virginia's market for marijuana is worth an estimated \$197 million to \$525 million," Sullivan continued. "Prohibition does not remove the market's desire for the good, it only drives it into underground markets where those inclined to break the law will sell."

Repealing marijuana prohibition will bring this market into the open and cease making criminals out of peaceable people engaging in voluntary commerce and crop cultivation."

Like his colleagues, Anthony Tellez, a software developer from Falls Church, feels strongly about the need to protect the freedom granted to Americans by the U.S. Constitution, particularly in light of recent revelations about government surveillance programs.

"I do not believe the state has the right to fly a drone over your home without a warrant and due process as required by the state and federal constitutions," Tellez said.

If elected, Tellez also promises to work tirelessly to repeal the Marshall-Newman Act, which prohibits the union of homosexual couples in Virginia.

"I do not believe the government should be in the role of defining marriage and bestowing benefits to certain segments of the population, while prohibiting those benefits upon others," he said.

Tellez also believes that the Libertarian Party should make a more concerted outreach effort to the growing Hispanic community of the United States.

"The Libertarian roots exist in the Hispanic community," he said. "A lot of these immigrants come to the U.S. and start small businesses, thus benefitting from free markets."

Ken Kaplan: For a New Jersey with no state income tax

Ken Kaplan, the Libertarian Party candidate for governor in New Jersey, aims to make New Jersey the tenth state with no state income tax.

If Kaplan wins, he promises not to cherry-pick through the Constitution, but to enforce the Bill of Rights in its entirety, as meant by the Founding Fathers.

"It sounds like Bizarro World: an American citizen has to seek asylum in Russia for upholding our Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable searches and seizures," Kaplan said, commenting on the plight of Edward Snowden, a former National Security Agency (NSA) con-



Ken Kaplan

tractor who blew the whistle on massive U.S. government surveillance programs targeting Americans.

Also vying for the governor's seat in the Nov. 5 election are incumbent Republican Gov. Chris Christie, Democratic state Sen. Barbara Buono, and five other third-party and independent candidates.

To stand out, Kaplan is putting forward a simple but powerful agenda: more freedom and less taxes.

"I regard the first 10 amendments to the Constitution as a package deal, and regard an attack on any one of them as an attack on all of them," he said. "I regard the right to keep and bear arms guaranteed in the Second Amendment as no less important than the right to freedom of speech and religion guaranteed in the First Amendment."

The Democratic-leaning state already has some

of the strictest gun laws in the nation. And last spring, Gov. Christie proposed to toughen them even further by banning future sales of the Barrett .50 caliber long-range rifle. But the governor reversed himself in August and vetoed the legislature-approved ban, saying it will "serve only to confuse law-abiding gun owners."

"Those who use guns in the commission of crimes should be punished severely, but the state should not prevent its law-abiding citizens from exercising their constitutional rights," Kaplan said.

In Kaplan's view, New Jersey residents are overburdened with taxes that make the Garden State less attractive as a place of residence and business. And voters should not expect any change in this area if either of the two major

continued on page 15...

NJ Libertarians for legislature: More freedom, lower taxes

New Jersey residents will have a chance to lower their tax bills and enjoy more personal freedom if four Libertarians running for the state legislature are successful on election day in November.



Patrick McKnight
16th District Candidate

Taking on two Republican and two Democratic opponents in the state Assembly race in the 16th District is Patrick McKnight, who believes that government on every level should be cut down to size.

"New Jersey was the crossroads of the American Revolution," McKnight said. "Yet today we are the most over-taxed, over-legislated citizens in the country. We deserve better."

Pointing out that, today, total New Jersey government debt and liability has reached \$282 billion, or \$90,000 per family living in the state, McKnight argued that it's time to stop spending money the state does not have.

"Our politicians sidestep laws that require legislative approval of deficit spending," McKnight said. "We must put an end to it."

As a former history teacher, McKnight wants to take on the public schools, which he said spend the lion's share of the state budget yet "fail to teach children the necessary skills" to be successful in the modern world.

He is also a fervent defender of constitutional rights. He supports banning red-light cameras, restoring Second Amendment rights in the state that has some of the strictest gun laws in the nation, and eliminating the federal Transportation Security Administration that has a large presence in New Jersey.

"Our families should be able to travel freely without illegal harassment from the TSA," Mr. McKnight said. "The TSA is invasive and indecent. It has no constitutional jurisdiction."

McKnight recommends fighting the TSA from the New Jersey Assembly by invoking the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution, under which states have the right to fight authority that the federal government has unconstitutionally attributed to itself.

McKnight also aims to introduce the Liberty Preservation Act, which nullifies provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2012 and other federal laws that authorize indefinite detention.

Three Libertarian candidates in the 14th District propose to eliminate or drastically cut whole categories of taxes to make New Jersey much friendlier for business.

The team is led by Don DeZarn, a veteran of the War in Afghanistan, who is running for the New Jersey state Senate on the promise of putting the power of government "back where it actually belongs, with the citizens, as our Founding Fathers intended it to be."

DeZarn called for reducing taxes as well as eliminating burdensome regula-

tions and bureaucracy that stifle entrepreneurship. He believes that corporate welfare policies that offer incentives to big companies to move to New Jersey are not only bad economics, but also "a slap in the face" to small business owners who must compete with those getting taxpayer-funded subsidies.

DeZarn intends to go after laws that drive up state spending.

"Just like you and me, our government must live within its means," DeZarn argued. "We simply can't keep spending money we don't have. Much of the money our government spends each year is through enforcing needless laws and regulations that hold back our free-enterprise system and severely limit the growth of private businesses, especially small, locally owned ones."

DeZarn believes that Americans should be free to educate their children as they see fit and marry whom they love. DeZarn has also been an outspoken critic of marijuana prohibition, calling for its repeal.

Sean O'Connor is running for one of the two state Assembly seats in the 14th District. One of his main goals is to lower the tax burden of state residents.

"The top issue in New Jersey is the astronomically high property taxes," O'Connor noted. "Neither the Republican nor the Democratic candidates have a solution to the problem."

According to O'Connor, the Lib-



Sean O'Connor, Steven Uccio, and Don DeZarn
Libertarian team running in 14th District

ertarian team is offering a four-step plan that will help lower the property tax without increasing any other taxes. The plan provides for a freeze on spending and tax rates by all local governments in the Garden State, eliminating all unfunded mandates that the state imposes on local government, cutting wasteful spending, and consolidation of all local government on the county level.

"New Jersey also has the fifth-highest income tax. We also have the highest property tax, and the highest per capita debt in America," O'Connor said. "It's no wonder more people left the state of New Jersey last year than any other state."

Rounding out the 14th District team is Steven Uccio, a staunch advocate for small government, who is aiming to take over the second Assembly seat.

"I think I can sum up the Libertarian mindset with three values: personal freedom, personal responsibility, and adherence to the Constitution," he said. "We want the government to do the most basic of things."

SPECIAL ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER

Alex Thornton for SC state senate plans to end income tax

Candidate also running on increased liberty, transparency, deregulation

Libertarian Alex Thornton, who is running in the Oct. 1 special election for state Senate in South Carolina's 42nd District, aims to eliminate the state income tax, reduce wasteful government spending, remove regulations in health care and education, end marijuana prohibition, and promote government transparency.

"Ending the income tax will reduce funding for our notoriously wasteful state government, and put over \$2.6 billion dollars back into the state's private sector," Thornton said. "Back into the pockets of the



Alex Thornton

hardworking citizens of South Carolina."

Thornton differentiates herself from her opponents, who stubbornly refuse to end the failed prohibition of marijuana despite the damage such laws do to the minorities in her district.

"Marijuana prohibition is a racist policy that results in a high incarceration rate among blacks and Hispanics," she said. "I will vote to end it immediately."

She opposes heavy regulation of schools from both state and federal governments.

"Deregulating the schools and encouraging affordable privatization would allow each individual school, along with its administration, to make better and wiser choices," she said.

Transparency is another area of focus for her campaign.

"Our state budget is a jumbled mess that might as well be hidden, and it most-

ly is, because no one — not even the politicians — can figure out where each part of the budget is allocated and to whom," she said.

Thornton supports the recent repeal of the Certificate of Need program in South Carolina, and believes that "many other health care regulations and taxes need to be repealed." She emphasizes the importance of free-market competition to drive down costs and increase quality of service.

The Senate seat up for grabs was vacated by incumbent Robert Ford. Thornton is opposed by Marlon Kimpson, who won the Democratic primary runoff on Aug. 27, and Republican Billy Shuman. Libertarian Rodney Travis also sought the party's nomination.

Thornton runs her own photography business and attended the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga's College of Business.

NE Libertarian for City Council aims to eliminate burdensome codes, permits, regulations

Michael Knebel's personal experience dealing with city bureaucrats in Bellevue, Neb., convinced him that unnecessary city codes and permitting requirements must go.



Michael Knebel

Knebel says that officials use the codes to fill the city's coffers. He's featuring his plan to reduce them in his campaign for City Council in the Oct. 15 special election.

"When I ran last year, I became a target for city code enforcers," Knebel said. "They visited my house four times within a few months, all on different supposed 'tips.'"

"Our city funds a lot of projects through the funds they get from fines and permits," he said. "The fire department became a paid department in 2007, and the city is now in a huge debate with the unions for funding."

Knebel's goal is to reduce and rescind regulations, cut spending, and cut taxes. Specifically, he aims to:

1. Eliminate certain codes, permits and regulations now required for home and business owners, creating an environment for business growth.
2. Cut funding for code enforcement.
3. Lower property taxes.
4. Cut the city sales tax.
5. Vote against a restaurant tax.
6. Replace taxpayer-funded workers with volunteer programs.
7. Keep down the cost of the police departments.

Knebel's goal is to make Bellevue thrive.

"I am running for City Council with my young daughter in mind," Knebel said of his one-year-old. "I want to really limit the city government and cut regulations to make Bellevue an even better place, and to be an inspiration for her."

After assault at GOP convention, Herford runs against borrow-and-spend

In a June 2012 scuffle, Ron Paul delegate Henry Herford Jr. was knocked down by Shreveport, La., police acting on the orders of state GOP officials. Now he's back up and running — for Congress, as a Libertarian.



Henry Herford

"The Libertarians will say no to foreign aid, cut OSHA and cut FEMA," said Herford, a retired teacher who lives in Delhi, La., at the north end of the sprawling 5th Congressional District. "I want to be known as the first congressman elected who's a member of a party that's for cutting out things, not increasing them. Everyone wants to go to the government and create another agency. But we've maxed out the credit card."

As part of his campaign, he is seeking to abolish the IRS and the Department of Homeland Security, as well as repeal Obamacare, the Patriot Act, and the National Defense Authorization Act's language pertaining to indefinite detention. According to the Herford for Congress campaign website, he also wants to "bring the troops home from unconstitu-

tional and unnecessary overseas wars and deployments" and decriminalize marijuana federally while allowing states to regulate the drug.

Herford is running in a special election made possible by the surprise retirement of Republican Rep. Rodney Alexander, who announced on Aug. 6 that he would step down. The special election is set for Oct. 19. If none of the 14 candidates who have qualified for the ballot is able to win more than 50 percent of the vote, a runoff with the top two vote-getters will be held on Nov. 16.

Voter turnout in off-year elections is typically low, with 20 percent at most expected to vote. With the support of libertarians and disaffected conservatives, Herford says he could make it to a runoff against Monroe Mayor Jamie Mayo, a Democrat who is likely to secure most of the black vote that makes up about one third of the district's population.

"The potential is there — I'm not a paper candidate," he said.

Campaigning across the district — which encompasses all or part of 24 of the state's 64 parishes — has been tough for Herford, who was badly injured in the state GOP convention scuffle last year.

The assault dislocated the 58-year-

old's artificial hip, which then popped back into place as he writhed on the floor in pain.

"It's given me trouble ever since then," Herford said of his hip.

He had been trying to take his rightful place as chairman of the Republican state convention after supporters of presidential hopeful Ron Paul were elected to fill 61 percent of the delegate slots.

But ousted GOP officials did not take kindly to the freedom-friendly overhaul. First, they threw out Paul supporter Alexander Helwig. Then, when Herford was elected chairman of the convention on a voice vote and rose to speak, the police were called in to remove him.

He was taken to a local hospital for medical treatment — and then was arrested. A difficult-to-watch YouTube video of the convention melee featuring Herford's cries of agony has been viewed nearly 200,000 times. In May, Herford filed a lawsuit against the state party and Shreveport police officials. He says this race is not revenge against the GOP.

"They can never pay me back for what they did," he said. "I'm running for my four daughters' future, and for everybody else's future. The future of America rests with the Libertarian Party. The other two parties have bankrupted this country."

Arizona Libertarians team up with Democrats to fight GOP attack

Libertarians, Democrats, and other interested parties are fighting back after Republican legislators passed a “top two”-style law that sharply reduces the chances of getting Libertarian and other third-party candidates on primary ballots.

In 2012, the AZLP defeated Proposition 121, a state ballot measure. It was a top two initiative and constitutional amendment that would have dramatically increased the number of signatures that third-party candidates would need to get on the primary ballot, then limit candidates in the general election to the top two vote-getters in the primary.

Failing to eliminate the AZLP via Prop 121, the GOP made a last-minute change to a bill, H.B. 2305, to increase the number of signatures required for Libertarian candidates by about 4,000 percent, effectively eliminating Libertarians and other third parties from primary ballots. The GOP-dominated legislature passed the bill on a

party-line vote at midnight on the last day of the extended legislative session.

In response, Democrats and the AZLP initiated a referendum for the November 2014 ballot to nullify the law, and Libertarians are acting as primary spokespersons. A long list of political groups oppose H.B. 2305, including labor unions, the Green Party, other third parties, the League of Women Voters, and the Goldwater Institute. Even the original author of Prop 121 is now opposed.

“Some GOP lawmakers have stated outright that their goal is to prevent Libertarians from causing Republicans to lose,” said AZLP Chair Warren Severin. “They believe that’s what happened in the 2012 election when Libertarians Kim Allen and Powell Gammill beat the margin of victory in their U.S. congressional races where Democrats won.”

Democrats oppose H.B. 2305 because it contains provisions that harm their ability to collect early bal-

lots. Plus, as California’s top two law has demonstrated, it makes the state’s dominant political party even more dominant. Arizona Republicans hold majorities in both the house and senate.

In August, Severin and AZLP Vice Chairman Barry Hess spoke in support of the referendum at separate Democratic and Republican meetings in the Kingman area. Whereas Democrats strongly supported the referendum, Republicans were split. A schism has formed within the GOP over this issue, with Ron Paul Republicans on the side of allowing Libertarians in the election process.

The deadline for getting enough signatures to put the repeal referendum on the ballot is Sept. 12. As of Sept. 5, 130,000 signatures had been collected.

“We expect the signature drive will succeed,” Severin said. “This sets up an interesting contest between the old, corrupt politics as usual and the residents’ desire for open and honest democracy. We’re going to win this one.”

Former LP candidate winning government transparency, justice battles in NJ

Since 2004, LP veteran and 2009 New Jersey Libertarian for lieutenant governor candidate John Paff has filed dozens of lawsuits to force local governments to open records being withheld from the public and to force compliance with open meeting laws. In the majority of cases, the government defendants settle or judgments issue in Paff’s favor.

Paff’s reputation for success, regularly covered by local media, often convinces authorities to comply with transparency laws, precluding the need for a trial. In one lawsuit he filed against 17 municipalities that were violating the state’s Open Public Meetings Act, 16 complied immediately. Only one city — Port Republic — fought him. It lost.

“Public meetings had become a joke, little more than a PR show where politicians pontificate while making the real decisions behind closed doors,” Paff said. “The closed meeting minutes were incomprehensible. All of this violated the letter and the spirit of the state’s Open Public Meetings Act.”

Paff’s work has forced governing bodies to limit and more accurately identify the topics they privately discuss, and to record comprehensible minutes of those private meetings. This permits citizens and the media to more meaningfully observe and engage in the decision-making process.

Another of Paff’s successful lawsuits managed to undo a loophole commonly used by government agencies to



John Paff speaks about the New Jersey Open Public Records Act at Raritan Valley Community College

avoid transparency by outsourcing work to nonprofits, which they claim are “private” and not subject to the open meeting requirements.

Although Paff serves as a volunteer firefighter, he sued the State Fireman’s Association, which would not disclose the recordkeeping of \$25 million it receives every year from the Fire Tax levied on fire insurance policies. In June, a state appeals court ruled unanimously that the association is a public entity and must comply with the Open Public Records Act.

Paff brought a case against the Atlantic City Alliance, a nonprofit to which the state’s Casino Reinvestment Development Authority awarded a \$20 million contract to promote tourism. Although he lost in county court, he hopes that the ap-

pellate court will subject the alliance to the state’s Open Public Records Act.

Paff notes that 11.4 percent of the state’s non-federal prisoners are housed in privately owned jails, which maintain that, as private corporations, they are exempt from the Open Public Records Act. In March 2012, Paff sued Community Education Centers, Inc., which charges New Jersey tens of millions of dollars per year to detain criminals and aliens awaiting deportation. Paff hopes that an appeals court will agree that prisons should be open to public scrutiny regardless of whether they are owned by the government or run privately.

Much of Paff’s work focuses on the lives of people who have become victims of government abuse.

“The government tells people about the good things it allegedly does while fighting tooth-and-nail to suppress information about government wrongdoing,” he said. In a recent case, a teacher had inappropriate contact with one student and made overtures to five others. In a secret deal, the teacher was allowed to resign and was given a “generic letter of recommendation” enabling him to get a teaching job in another district.

He noted that this is especially a problem with Police Internal Affairs, which handles complaints

of police abuse. When citizens victimized by police misconduct receives a cash settlement, they can typically collect it only if they sign a nondisclosure agreement, preventing them from letting the public know what happened.

“There’s been a parade of horrible abuses, mostly related to the drug war,” Paff said. “Police are harassing, terrifying, assaulting, and sometimes even killing innocent Americans. The financial outcomes of these cases are often hidden in sealed records.”

Paff said that the ultimate solution is to shrink government.

“I’m not a goo goo [good government reformer],” he said. “I’m a real Libertarian. I know the ultimate solution is to shrink Big Government. We need to end the drug war, cut government spending and taxes, and curtail the power of government employee unions. Meanwhile, I do what I can to educate the public so they will eventually see that government is not the solution but the problem.”

Are you thinking of running for office? Or do you just want to learn more?

Go to LP.org/run-for-office and send us your inquiry. You’ll receive information from your state LP affiliate or from the national LP headquarters that you need to get started, file your campaign, comply with your state’s election laws, and get on the ballot.

Arkansas LP sees strong growth, aims to triple slate of candidates

The Arkansas Libertarian Party is experiencing strong growth in campaigns, members, and county organizations, with a goal to achieve party status in 2014.

"In 2012, we ran a total of 14 candidates for various elective offices in Arkansas," said Jessica Paxton, chair of the Libertarian Party of Arkansas (LPAR), who was one of those candidates. "Our goal is to run 50 next year."

Paxton says she has already been approached by nearly 30 people with requests for information on how to run for office on the LP ticket.

"We want every Arkansan to have at least nine Libertarians on his or her ballot," Paxton said. "These will include candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, state treasurer, auditor, secretary of state, attorney general, commissioner of state lands, various other local offices, as well as the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives."

Putting them all on the ballot in November 2014 will be no easy task. Libertarians will have to restore their "new political party" status by collecting 10,000 valid signatures from registered Arkansas voters in 90 days.

Paxton and her team estimate they need 15,000–16,000 raw signatures to ensure they end up with more than the 10,000 that must be approved by the state. By Aug. 24, according to LPAR Treasurer Michael Pakko, petitioners had turned in 4,800 signatures — 30 days into



LPAR Treasurer Dr. Michael Pakko, Jayne Pakko, and 2nd District Rep. Brian Shank petitioning in Pulaski County.

the signature drive.

If it succeeds, LPAR will be able to field candidates for all elective offices in Arkansas in 2014, nominating them at an annual party convention instead of going through expensive and exhausting primaries.

If the drive fails, there will be no candidates on the LP ticket.

"Without a successful signature drive, we will not be able to run a single candidate in any race," Paxton explained. "The only Libertarians who would run for office in Arkansas

are those who would be forced to change their registration and run as independents, Republicans, or Democrats."

To maintain party status in Arkansas, a statewide Libertarian candidate must receive at least 3 percent of the vote. In 2012, Libertarian presidential nominee Gov. Gary Johnson won a higher-than-average 1.5 percent, but short of the 3 percent threshold.

LPAR aims to run a candidate for governor in 2014 with the goal of getting 3 percent to retain ballot access. Paxton noted that the experience of the Green Party of Arkansas, which has run both presidential and gubernatorial candidates in the past, may offer a good indication.

"Each cycle, their gubernatorial candidate has received twice as many votes as their presidential total," she said. "If this holds true for the LPAR, we could turn our 1.5 percent for Gary Johnson into 3 percent for our gubernatorial candidate."

The party ballot access drive began in late July, and must be completed by late October. The secretary's office then has 30 days to certify the signatures.

LPAR will rely on professional petitioners to bring in signatures, supplemented by volunteers who are collecting signatures at gun shows, music festivals, agricultural fairs, and football games.

continued on page 13...

FL governor candidate polling at 8.7% in campaign to cut taxes, spending

Even though the show-down for the Florida governorship is still more than a year away, Adrian Wyllie is already off to a strong start.



Adrian Wyllie

An opinion poll by StPetePolls.org released in early August showed the Libertarian candidate running a respectable third, with 8.7 percent support of the respondents, behind incumbent Republican Gov. Rick Scott at 29.5 percent and former Democratic Gov. Charlie Crist, who led with 40.1 percent.

Wyllie sees growing voter disillusionment with the Republican and Democratic Parties, pervasive worries about the current direction of the country, and a yearning for the country's return to constitutional principles outlined by the Founding Fathers.

"Libertarianism isn't radical," Mr. Wyllie told the *Digital Journal*. "It is the philosophy upon which our nation was founded, and which gave us all the opportunity to enjoy peace, prosperity, and the blessings of liberty. The problems we face today are because we've strayed so far from those founding principles."

He believes most people are basically Libertarian, but have not realized it yet.

To revive the economy, Adrian Wyllie plans to reduce the size of government and curb its dangerous reach — issues that the two major parties have refused to tackle.

"One of my first steps will be to introduce legislation to repeal tangible taxes," he said. "I will also seek to reduce, and hopefully repeal, all property taxes. I've assembled some of the best economic minds in Florida to develop a comprehensive plan to ensure that your life, liberty, and property are protected from undue taxation, and that Florida's essential government services are fully funded."

In his words, the key to overcoming the real estate crisis that has hit Florida especially hard lies in the elimination of property taxes and a corresponding cut in government spending.

"Our state budget is \$70 billion per year," Wyllie said. "Russia's military budget is \$71 billion per year. Think about that for a moment. ... Is the problem really that we're not spending and taxing enough? Or is the problem that we have a bloated, inefficient state government that spends your money with reckless abandon?"

He promises that, if elected, he will seek to cut all wasteful, unnecessary,

"Our state budget is \$70 billion per year. Russia's military budget is \$71 billion per year. Think about that for a moment. ... Is the problem really that we're not spending and taxing enough? Or is the problem that we have a bloated, inefficient state government that spends your money with reckless abandon?"

— Adrian Wyllie for Florida Governor

and inefficient government spending and programs.

Wyllie said that he and his team have already calculated that Florida's spending can be easily cut by at least 30 percent without affecting any crucial government services.

He said that his aides are currently going line by line through the state budget to identify further possible cuts.

Wyllie strongly opposes recently disclosed federal surveillance programs, promising that, if elected, he will direct the attorney general to criminally prosecute any federal authorities that seek to violate the U.S. and Florida constitutions.

He also favors legalization of marijuana and same-sex marriage, arguing that "people should be free to love and cherish whomever they choose."

Wyllie has been interviewed at length by the *Digital Journal*, the News

Herald, and Dispatch Radio, and has been on Peter Schiff's nationally syndicated radio talk show.

The Florida gubernatorial contest is expected to be a high-profile race. Gov. Scott, a deep-pocketed venture capitalist, spent an astounding \$75 million of his own money to win the 2010 gubernatorial race.

Other possible big-name contenders include Democratic Congressman Ted Deutch, Florida Senate Minority Leader Nan Rich, and Republican Florida House Speaker Will Weatherford.

Wyllie hopes to qualify for the gubernatorial debates, whose participants must score 15 percent or higher in a Mason-Dixon opinion poll.

"I am optimistic," he said. "We have hundreds and hundreds of volunteers working all over the state. And we are beginning to see the results of it."

David F. Nolan Fund for purchase of new National Libertarian Headquarters moving forward

Thanks to 788 generous donors, we have raised more than \$305,433.47 as of Sept. 12, 2013.

Chair Geoffrey J. Neale, the Office Acquisition Committee (LNC subcommittee), and Operations Director Robert Kraus have been working to find the best building or office space available in the D.C. area at the best price possible to meet the needs of a new national LP office. They made one offer for an office space in Alexandria, Va., (once an offer is accepted, it will take another 60 days to agree on a firm contract) while they continue to seek other options.

The more the LP raises for the Nolan Memorial Fund, the higher the LP's deposit on a new office space, which gives the LP more leverage negotiate favorable terms for purchase of the property. PLUS a lower mortgage leaves more cash on hand to advance liberty: more recruiting, training, and supporting candidates; more assisting state affiliates; more ballot access; more LP videos, blogs, and press releases; and more publicity.

Please donate today — and put your name along side David Nolan's by selecting the naming opportunity that's right for you today!

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New York LP wins ballot access lawsuit

By Mark Axinn
LP New York Chair

On June 19, the New York Libertarian Party (LPNY) won its three-year old lawsuit against the State Board of Elections when the U.S. District Court held that a portion of the State Election Law prohibiting an independent candidate from running for office as the candidate of two independent bodies to be an unconstitutional denial of the Equal Protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.



LPNY Attorney
Gary Donoyan
represented the LP in
successful
three-year lawsuit

New York is a fusion state which allows candidates to be cross-endorsed by recognized parties, but not by two independent bodies like the Libertarian Party. Now, that double-standard has been eliminated.

In 2010, both the Libertarian Party and the Anti-Prohibition Party (APP), two unofficial bodies under New York election law, nominated Randy Credico as their US Senate candidate. Credico submitted over 15,000 valid petition signatures for each line and qualified to be listed as the candidate of each of them, but instead the State Board of Elections demanded that he choose only one line, which he refused to do.

At the same time, Charles Schumer was listed as the candidate of the Democrat, Independence and Working Families parties and Jay Townsend was the candidate of both the Repub-

lican and Conservative parties.

Because Credico refused to choose one line over the other, he was listed only in the Libertarian Party column and received 24,863 votes. The space for his name on the ballot in the APP column was intentionally left blank.

Credico and others sued the State Board of Elections in federal court. One of his supporters testified that he wanted to vote for Credico, but not as a Libertarian. As a result, he was denied his choice to vote for Credico on the APP line, for which he had qualified.

After three years of litigation, US Magistrate Judge Cheryl Pollak held that the applicable Election Law provision was unconstitutional as applied to the LPNY and the statute must be stricken as facially discriminatory.

Mark Axinn, LPNY Chair and a plaintiff in the action, stated, "This is a terrific victory for all independent candidates and especially for Libertarians as we are out there every year seeking to bring our message of freedom and peace to the voters. Now we can garner maximum exposure for our candidates."

Richard Winger, editor of Ballot Access News, noted that the court ruling is a valuable precedent because the court held that no state interest exists for the discriminatory law, and that it must be invalidated even if the burden on the Libertarian Party and its voters is not severe.

The Board of Elections has advised that it will not appeal the 45-page decision of the US Magistrate Judge. Plaintiffs Credico, Axinn and others were represented by LPNY attorney Gary Donoyan and the late Leonard Weinglass, who was one of the defense attorneys in the famous Chicago 7 trial in 1969.

Sarvis for VA governor

...continued from page 3

He promises to "restore Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable searches and seizures," and he advocates ending the War on Drugs, saying that "responsible drug use that does not harm others should not be punished."

The *Roanoke Times* last month urged gubernatorial debate organizers to include Sarvis, arguing that third-party candidates "offer fresh perspectives and challenge the status quo." As of Sept. 10, the appeal was not heeded.

Robert Sarvis is polling unusually high according to three polls conducted in August that show 9-10 percent of voters favor him. No third party or indepen-

dent candidate for governor in Virginia has won more than 2.2 percent of the vote in the last 47 years.

Although poll numbers for Libertarians in a three-way race usually decline steadily from September to Election Day, Larry Sabato, head of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia, believes this year could be an exception.

"It's indisputable that this is a year when many thousands want an alternative to the two major-party candidates," Sabato told the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

On Nov. 5, voters will demonstrate whether they're ready to break the habit of voting for the Democrat or the Republican and cast their ballots for what they want.

LP remembers Admiral Michael C. Colley

Libertarian activist and retired U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Michael C. Colley passed away on Jan. 19, 2013, at his home in Gulf Shores, Ala. — a month before his 75th birthday.



Adm. Michael Colley

Colley became involved in the Libertarian Party after more than 30 years of service in the United States Navy. A year after he joined the Alabama Libertarian Party in 2003, he started serving the first of his three terms as an at-large representative on the Libertarian National Committee.

Colley was largely responsible for the planning and execution of the 2010 LNC Convention in St. Louis.

The admiral argued that the purpose of the U.S. military was defense, and "not to serve as the world policeman" or "engage in nation-building," said James Lark, who served on the LNC with Adm. Colley for each of his three terms.

Colley was interested in civil liberties issues and opposed government regulation "of all facets of our lives." On immigration, he opposed building a fence on the U.S.-Mexico border.

"He was the greatest Libertarian I've personally known," said retired U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Steve Stone, who will dedicate an upcoming book to Colley.

AFFILIATE News And Events

Affiliate news and events are provided to LP News by Libertarian Party state affiliates.

Alabama

New leadership elected at convention

New leadership was elected by the members of the Libertarian Party of Alabama (LPA) at the annual convention in June 2013. Leigh LaChine, a Birmingham resident, is now serving as the party's State Executive Committee chair. Other members newly elected to the State Executive Committee were Aaron Watkins as vice chair, Christopher Allen as secretary, Ross Lowe as treasurer, and Crissy Brown as director of outreach. Jim Albea was elected as an at-large representative, with Jennifer McGowen serving as an additional at-large representative. Additionally, Tim Cowles was selected as Region 1 representative, Colin Albea as Region 2 representative, Mark Bodenhausen as Region 3 representative, and Dennis Knizely as Region 4 representative.

The LPA has submitted the roughly 8,000 signatures required to run candidates for Jefferson County positions, as well as several state representative and Senate positions that are located entirely within Jefferson County. Additional petitioning is under way in an effort to qualify additional counties. The LPA is encouraged by its ability to announce that there will be Libertarian candidates on the 2014 general election ballot in Alabama.

Connecticut

Annual convention on October 19

The Connecticut LP will hold its annual convention on Saturday, October 19. The location is Cabela's in East Hartford, speakers start at 1 p.m., and all are welcome. The cost is a donation of any amount you choose.

Bill Russell and Team Norwich continue to make great strides. If the entire team is elected, they will have enough seats to truly make a difference. Visit <http://teamrussell4norwich.com/> to volunteer or donate.

Richard Lion is running for Board of

Directors in Manchester.

Joshua Katz is running for Planning Commission in Westbrook.

Kentucky

Preparing for 2014 elections, outreach

First Libertarian declares intent for 2014 U.S. Senate race: David Patterson declared his intent to run for U.S. Senate in 2014, for the seat currently held by Mitch McConnell. David Patterson was previously the vice-chair of the LPKY, and has been a great spokesman and face for the party.

David Patterson is a police officer for the city of Harrodsburg. While many Libertarians are initially wary of David, due to his chosen profession, they're quickly put at ease after speaking with him for a short period of time. David is a Libertarian, and his position as a police officer helps give certain Libertarian issues extra weight when he is speaking to the public.

As the U.S. Senate race heats up, David intends to be in the thick of it. As the 2013 elections wind down around the rest of the country, LP Kentucky hopes that libertarians around the United States will turn their eyes to the race David has entered, as it will be one of the highest-profile races in the country.

Others have inquired about the U.S. Senate and other races in Kentucky. If there are any contested races for the Libertarian Party nomination, they will be determined at the LPKY's internal primary, to be held at the 2014 State Convention.

Preparing for 2014 elections: We are now looking to start organizing our 2014 electoral efforts. Some have previously contacted the party, but we haven't heard back after our initial response. If you're interested in running, please contact your district representative, or State Chair Ken Moellman. If you've tried to reach us by email, and not heard back, please contact us by phone. You can reach Ken Moellman at his LPKY office number, (859) 652-3575.

Kentucky gets more organized, you can help: Kentucky now has three recognized county parties: Boone, Campbell, and Kenton Counties. We have county coordinators in Grant, Madison, Mont-

gomery, Pendleton, and Trimble Counties. Currently a county coordinator is pending in Christian County, as well.

The county coordinator role is the precursor to forming a county party. The coordinator is named by the district party, and is the point of contact in the county for interested Libertarians. The role is really pretty easy — once you find some Libertarians that want to get involved, you start having a monthly gathering to determine if you want to become a county party, and who wants to be in each role.

If you'd like to help grow the party in your county, but there's no county party yet, please contact your district representative or At-Large Representative Mark Gailey from our website, www.LPKY.org. Ask about becoming a county coordinator.

LPKY August outreach: The LPKY hosted a booth at the Boone County Fair and the Kentucky State Fair. A "rogue" booth was operated at the state's largest political event, where the organizers conveniently disregarded multiple emails and phone calls from the party to participate. We were able to continue to get new Libertarian voter registrations and handed out thousands of pieces of LP material to the masses. LPKY plans to wrap up the outdoor event outreach activities in September, at the annual Oktoberfest event in Covington, KY.

LPKY Voter Registration tracking: From June to July of 2013:

- Democrats increased 0.05%
- Republicans increased 0.22%
- Libertarians increased 2.30%

Thanks to everyone who is registered Libertarian. We ask that if you're not registered to vote as a Libertarian yet, that you visit our website at www.LPKY.org and follow "Step Three" under "Join Us". We need as many registrations as we can get between now and June 2014. We hope to ask you, and all registered Libertarians, for your signature to get local, state, and federal candidates on the ballot in your area.

Missouri

New website, new logos, updated platform

This year, we held our annual state convention and state committee meeting on Feb 23, just two days after the first of the massive snowstorms that hit the state this spring.

Unlike most years, this year we chose to have a business meeting, rather than a full convention with outside speak-

ers, wherein the business meeting portion tends to get rushed. We felt we needed to address some infrastructure issues. After reviewing our election results from 2012, we went through a needs analysis for the party. Based on this analysis, we decided to proceed with several actions items including building a new website, creating custom literature, and putting systems and resources in place to help county affiliates and to help better equip candidates.

We also decided to develop a new logo for the party, and a new logo for our "Freedom not Force" slogan, to better brand the party. Both new logos are featured on the front of this newsletter.

The party also amended its bylaws to add an additional membership category of "Recognized Member" for those who wish to identify with and help out the party, but who may not wish to take any of the actions associating with becoming a voting member of the party. Several additions and updates were made to our platform to better address current issues.

Our annual award winners were announced at an awards luncheon. Biannual officer elections were held and Cisse Spragins was reelected chair, Randy Langkraehr was elected vice chair, Matthew Copple was elected secretary and Sean O'Toole was reelected treasurer. State and executive committee members were also selected. The new brochure has been produced, and the new website went live in the third week of July.

Nebraska

Western Nebraska LP first county party

The Libertarian Party of Nebraska has been very supportive of the creation of a Western Nebraska LP, as well as its first county party, which has been set up in Douglas County. Douglas County Chair Scott Zimmerman has been very active in maintaining monthly meetups for the party, and increasing membership. He recently ran for school board and narrowly missed being elected in a field of five candidates for his particular district.

The LPNE is cosponsoring the Midwestern Liberty Fest along with the Tony Stiles Show. This is an event in Omaha that will raise awareness of the liberty movement and feature many prominent speakers and acts.

On the campaign trail, LPNE Communications Director Michael Knebel is

continued on page 11...

AFFILIATE News And Events

...continued from page 10

currently running for Bellevue City Council. He will face off against three other candidates in a special election being held on October 15. What the party is most excited about is that we have been interviewing candidates for the 2014 elections and may have to hold our first-ever primary for senatorial candidates.

New York

LPNY blankets state with candidates

The New York LP has blanketed the state this year with candidates for local elections running on the Libertarian line.

LPNY chapters throughout New York nominated candidates for city and county legislatures in multiple races and for Mayor in New York City and Albany. In all cases, candidates had to collect the requisite number of petition signatures, ranging from 180 for the Batavia City Council to 3,750 for New York City mayor, public advocate, and comptroller.

LPNY Chair Mark Axinn stated, "I am proud of our Libertarian candidates who put in the long hours gathering signatures to be on the ballot in Batavia, Syracuse, Albany, New York City, and Long Island. By having many candidates on the ballot in various towns and cities this year, we will greatly increase our exposure for next year's important gubernatorial election."

Several candidates are running for the first time, including Batavia resident and retired school teacher Jim Rosenbeck.

"We have a message that resonates with the local voters," he said, "and we are prepared to work harder than either the R's or the D's. People want a choice. We are offering it. We appreciate the support from our Libertarian brothers and sisters."

North Carolina

LPNC appoints new executive director

Jason Melehani, 25, of Durham, was appointed executive director of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina. He will be the principle administrative assistant to the state chair, and oversee all the party's programs and fundraising activities.

"I'm proud to accept this responsibility, because I believe North Carolinians are ready for a new option, one that respects individual liberty and supports personal responsibility on all issues, all the time, and puts people before politics," said Melehani.

"Young people across North Carolina are beginning to realize that they are paying a disproportionately high price for irresponsible governing of decades past," he said. "This type of fiscal irresponsibility, coupled with the drastic erosion of our civil liberties since 2001, is driving people from all walks of life to the Libertarian Party by the thousands in North Carolina."

Evidence of this is that Libertarian voter registration grew by more than 70 percent since the beginning of 2012, according to the State Board of Elections.

"We're delighted to have a person of Jason's ability and passion as executive director," said state chair J.J. Summerell. "He's already proven what a great organizer and activist he is, serving as our county affiliate development director, and recruiting and training leadership teams in more than a dozen counties."

Unlike the Democratic and Republican parties, Summerell noted, Libertarians rely totally on volunteers.

"We don't have the hundreds of thousands of dollars to spend on extensive staffs and lavish offices," he said. "Volunteer local activists are the heart and soul of the Libertarian Party and the libertarian movement. Jason will be invaluable in harnessing and focusing their energy."

Melehani was appointed by the 12-member executive committee, which is elected by the membership at the party's annual convention.

During the 2012 campaign, Melehani was the state co-director for Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson. He also served as the southern regional director for campus events for the Johnson campaign and helped to organize some of the most successful events during the campaign, including events at Duke University and the University of Texas at Austin.

Melehani said his focus will be developing a strategy to make substantial inroads in local elections by electing Libertarians to town and city councils across the state, ultimately paving the way for

electoral victories in the state House.

"We already strongly focused on our seven candidates running for local office this year and have started recruiting and training our candidates for next year too," he noted.

He said the party will support this effort by adopting similar management skills and technologies which helped propel the Democrats to victory in 2008 and 2012.

Pennsylvania

Party meetings now accessible remotely

We had a board meeting on Saturday, Aug. 17.

Since July, we have been working on having our meetings remotely accessible, due to the size of our state. I believe we have come up with a "magic formula" to make all this happen. We will have two meeting sites: one in the west, and one in the east, where we will be in a room with board members from that region. Invited to these locations will be any Libertarian who does not have a solid Internet connection and cannot partake in the Goto meeting. To those who can attend via Goto meeting, I am hopeful that they will be able to participate as if they were in the room with us. This past meeting was held in State College, Penn., and while it was a nice facility, the Internet access was terrible, so the links were constantly failing. However, we do have the technology to adapt to these issues, and we are working on them now.

Also discussed at the board meeting was the recognition of Washington County and Northampton County. We had representatives from the new Northampton County Committee in attendance, and both organizations are being run in such a way that we will be seeing great things from them in the coming years.

We had a rather large agenda, and while our discussion over the final disposition statement against one of our former chairs was lengthy, we did manage to get that done with everyone in agreement, and we managed to handle a couple other bits of business, including the agreement to move forward with a new webmaster to finish work on our website.

We created an ad hoc committee to work on our policy manual, and I am hopeful that the changes made will help to make things work better within the LPPA structure. In the meantime, and behind the scenes, we are working to help

legislation being considered that will help stop the NDAA from being implemented in PA; we have people working on ballot access, including the Voter's Choice Act; and we are supporting the Montgomery County Register of Wills, which, in defiance of the law, has been granting same sex marriage licenses. How Libertarian is THAT? The Spirit of William Penn would be proud!

Texas

Regional conferences planned across state

WE'RE COMING TO YOU!

The Libertarian Party of Texas is on its way around the state to support our local organizations, candidates, and membership. We want you there! Regional conferences are planned for several locations:

September 28: Forth Worth (DFW Airport Marriott South, 4151 Centreport Blvd.)

October 19: Austin (Holiday Inn Austin Midtown, 6000 Middle Fiskville Rd.)

Oct 26: San Antonio (TBD)

Houston and other cities are being planned. These will be daylong sessions with lunch included, starting at 9:00 a.m. and concluding at 5:30 p.m. Details will be posted in our Lone Star Liberty newsletter and on our website: www.LPTexas.org

State Chair Pat Dixon, new executive director Lauren Daugherty, and membership director Heather Fazio will be joined by several other prominent Libertarians to cover the following areas:

- Candidates will learn how to keep up with state filing requirements, fundraising, and general campaign advice.

- County leaders will be trained to run business meetings and conventions (candidate nomination), as well as how to grow their local organization.

- Volunteers will be empowered to become convention delegates and to actively engage in outreach to further the cause of liberty.

Registration: \$25

All-day training for candidates, campaign volunteers, county chairs, and anyone interested in growing the Libertarian Party of Texas. Lunch will be included and complemented by a special speaker focused on helping Libertarians to better communicate the message of liberty.

continued on page 12...

Wes Benedict returns as executive director for national LP

Wes Benedict, formerly from Texas, has returned to the national LP headquarters to resume his previous position as executive director for the Libertarian National Committee. His focus is on fundraising, LNC project oversight, and general management.

Carla Howell, who served as executive director from December 2011 through July 2013, assumed the position of political director, in which she will focus on recruiting, coaching and supporting candidates, political strategy, media interviews, and party communications.

"Wes Benedict is a highly qualified and welcome addition to the LP headquarters," Howell said. "He's focused on results."

Benedict said, "It's great to be back, but I also remember how overwhelming this job can be. I'm grateful to have Carla taking care of so many of the key political tasks."

Wes Benedict served as executive director from July 2009 to December 2011



Wes Benedict



Carla Howell

under former party chairmen Bill Redpath and Mark Hinkle, and now serves under chair Geoffrey J. Neale.

Benedict previously served as executive director of the Libertarian Party of Texas, where he made it one of the best-performing state Libertarian Party affiliates. He recruited a record 173 LP candidates for office in Texas for the November 2008 elections.

While away from the national office, Benedict has been busy promoting Libertarian affiliates and candidates.

He founded the Libertarian Action Super PAC (LASPAC) in 2012 to promote the Libertarian Party nominee for president, and provided promotional materials

and advertisements for the Gary Johnson for President campaign.

He also founded the Texas-based Libertarian Booster PAC, which recruits and assists Libertarian Party candidates for non-federal office. In 2013, the PAC recruited and supported candidates and ballot drives in Virginia, Alabama, and North Dakota.

During his hiatus, Benedict wrote the book *Introduction to the Libertarian Party: For Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians, Independents, and Everyone Else*, which describes the structure, history, and activities of the LP, and offers suggestions for becoming a valuable activist. Living in Louisiana, he also served as chair of the Parish Executive Committee of the East Baton Rouge Libertarian Party.

Benedict holds an MBA from the University of Michigan and a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Texas. He has owned a small business, has served as a management consultant for PricewaterhouseCoopers, and was a manufacturing engineer for 3M Company.

Affiliate News

...continued from page 11

Upgraded Registration: \$50

Includes all of the above PLUS priority seating during lunch, a Libertarian Party of Texas T-shirt, and a bound copy of either the LPT Candidate Handbook or County Chair Manual.

Email Heather@LPTexas.org to REGISTER TODAY!

Timothy Martinez contacted the state party in July expressing interest in serving as chair of the Comal County Libertarian Party. There was no organization in place in Comal and appointments can be made to get the organization restarted. Timothy was appointed and immediately made a donation to the state party to become a member. He also conveyed that he has experience in working with hotels and meeting planning, and volunteered to help coordinate the evaluation of proposals for meetings and our state convention. This has been extremely helpful to our convention committee and staff. Tim has made a great contribution in a short time and we are very happy to have him on our team.

Rob Lapham has been a member of the state committee since 2010. In that year, he served as ombudsman for the committee members until later that year when he was asked to serve as executive director without pay. He held that position until 2012 and remained on the state committee. This year, he led an effort to fix a very problematic IT infrastructure problem, resulting in the state party's selection of Libertas to replace the current system. Rob raised money on his own for this effort and is the project manager. Rob has made extraordinary efforts and his contributions are greatly appreciated.

2014 National Convention in Columbus, Ohio

By Kevin Knedler,
LP Ohio Chair

The Libertarian Party of Ohio (LPO.org) is looking forward to seeing you at the 2014 national convention. It's been 41 years since the convention was in Ohio — 1973 in Cleveland — and a LOT has changed in Ohio and Columbus.

Columbus, the state capital, is now the largest city in Ohio and the 15th-largest city in the United States. The metropolitan area of Columbus has more than 2,300,000 residents.

The location of Columbus in the Midwest gives up to 1½-day access to 70 percent of the U.S. population. If you are flying, CMH is one of the best airports, with thousands of flights. It is in the middle of the pack on average flight costs. One could also fly into Cleveland, Akron, Toledo, Detroit, Ft. Wayne, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Dayton, or Pittsburgh and drive to Columbus in three hours or less. Trains stop in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, and Indianapolis.

This is not the Columbus that you knew a few short years ago. In 2012, Co-

lumbus was ranked in Business Week's 50 best cities in America. In 2013, Forbes gave Columbus an A rating as one of the top cities for business in the U.S. In 2008, Forbes also ranked Columbus the no. 1 up-and-coming tech city in the nation.

There is something to do all over downtown Columbus, the arena district, the Short North, and the Ohio State campus. If you like the arts, we have two cherished theatres in the downtown area: The restored 1929 Ohio Theatre and the Palace Theatre. The Ohio Theatre has the longest running Summer Movie Series in the United States. Big name acts also come to these theatres.

And I would be remiss if I didn't mention the # 1 zoo in the United States, the Columbus Zoo, which is north of Columbus in Southern Delaware County. It's what many call "the house that Jack Hanna built." Yes, the same Jack Hanna who you see on television. It's an incredible zoo.

So, what should you expect in Columbus, Ohio, in June? That friendly Midwest demeanor is common. Temperatures will probably be in the 65 to 85 degree range. The downtown will be hopping with baseball games, nightlife, and

the annual Community Festival — aka, ComFest.

ComFest is something you don't want to miss. It is an immense three-day festival only three blocks from downtown Columbus in Goodale Park. It has arts and crafts vendors, live musicians on multiple stages, lots of local social and political organizations, body painting, food vendors, beer, and more. Yes, the LNC planned for the dates of our 2014 national convention to coincide with ComFest.

One of the largest gay pride parades in the Midwest is held in Columbus, the weekend before our 2014 national convention. It is reflective of the sizable gay population in Columbus.

With a central location in the United States, Columbus is perfect for a Libertarian convention. The Libertarian Party of Ohio is gearing up for this unique opportunity, coming in late June 2014.

Kevin Knedler is Chair of the Libertarian Party of Ohio State Executive Committee. He served on the Libertarian National Committee from 2010 to 2012 and won the national Sam Adams Award for Activism at the 2010 LP National Convention.

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NY Libertarians field record number of candidates, overcome tough ballot requirements

It's not easy to get a candidate on the ballot in New York City, and those who manage often face challenges from Democratic and Republican opponents. Yet a record eight Libertarians will be on the ballot this November, the most that have ever run for office during a single New York City election.

New York Libertarians put another four candidates on the ballot in Albany and Batavia, and an additional eight Libertarians await the outcome of challenges, which were undecided as of Sept. 9.

"The Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Staten Island chapters of the Libertarian Party pulled together to get their candidates on the ballot for various offices in the nation's largest city," said Mark Axinn, New York LP state chair.

The LP does not have ballot status in New York, so it was necessary for every candidate to submit independent petition signatures — ranging from 3,750 signatures per candidate to run for mayor, comptroller, and public advocate, to 450 signatures to run for city council in a local district.

Petitioning in New York for independent bodies like the LP can be done only during a six-week period starting the week after Independence Day. This falls in



LP New York video promoting NYC candidates.

the middle of the summer, when most people are away, Axinn noted. Both the signatory and the witness must be registered voters in New York. Signatures can be invalidated for all sorts of technical errors, such as writing "Brooklyn" instead of "Kings" in the column for the voter's county — even though they refer to precisely the same district. Surmounting these challenges is a significant accomplishment.

Libertarian candidates who will be on the November New York City ballot are: Michael Sanchez, Mayor; Hesham El-Meligy, Comptroller; Alex Merced, Public

Advocate; David Casavis, Manhattan Borough President; Silas Johnson, Staten Island Borough President; Helene Jnane, NYC Council, District 4; David Garland, NYC Council, District 5; and Christopher Giattino, NYC Council, District 8.

Libertarian mayoral candidate Michael Sanchez aims to end the city's notorious stop-and-frisk policy.

"New York City has an out-of-control government hell-bent on running our lives," he said. "It continues to violate the Fourth Amendment rights of our citizens with its stop and frisk policy. I plan on terminating this policy."

The New York LP released a video featuring its NYC city candidates, which can be viewed at: youtu.be/WHWhGwow4dA

Elsewhere in New York, Libertarians Robert Brown for Genesee County Legislator, District 8; James Rosenbeck and Lisa Whitehead for Batavia City Council; and Robert Porter for Albany City Council, 9th Ward, will also be on the ballot this November.

An additional eight NY Libertarian candidates in Long Island's Suffolk and Nassau counties await certification of their candidacies from the local Boards of Elections, which Democrats and Republicans are challenging.

Arkansas ballot drive

...continued from page 7

Paxton said that the attitudes of voters toward Libertarians vary from event to event.

"Some people believe that we are the worst that could happen to America," she laughed. "Those are usually dyed-in-the-wool Democrats, very protective of their old turf. But for each one of those, there are others who are receptive to the

idea of more choice on the ballot. In fact, most people want more choice."

Since 2010, the party has welcomed 171 new members, and the 2013 Libertarian State Convention drew twice as many participants as the previous year.

The party now has county organizations. The first active county group, the Pulaski County Libertarian Party, began operating in the fall of 2011, Paxton said. Since then, seven other county groups have formed.



LP-issued news release:

Are drone strikes convincing Yemenis that U.S. government is most dangerous terrorist?

The Libertarian Party calls for an immediate end to drone strikes in Yemen.

"Yemenis perceive the U.S. drones strikes, which are killing peaceful citizens, to be acts of terrorism," said Geoffrey J. Neale, chair of the Libertarian National Committee. "At least in some respects, they are."

"Terrorism" refers to acts of violence that are intended to instill fear and that deliberately target or disregard the safety of civilians.

"While instilling fear among the Yemeni population at large may not be President Obama's goal, it is well known that drone strikes terrify civilians," said Neale. "His drone war in Yemen is blatant disregard for human life."

A senior Defense Ministry official in Yemen said on August 11 that U.S. drones killed nearly a dozen people believed to be innocent over the prior two weeks.

Drone strikes do little to remove terrorist threats against the United States. A Yemeni sheikh told the Christian Science Monitor, "The 'Al Qaeda' who usually get killed are just poor kids — not people who pose some special threat." He also noted that such targets are "very,



very easy to replace."

Furthermore, drone strikes play into the hands of al-Qaeda. Farea al-Muslimi, who heads a pro-democracy organization in Yemen, said, "a big part of al-Qaeda's power has been convincing Yemenis that they are in a war with America."

John Glaser, columnist for the *Washington Times*, charges President Obama with committing acts of terrorism. "The Obama administration's relentless drone war gives the lie to the old saying that terrorism is a weapon of the weak: The world's most powerful military superpower practices terrorism too," he said.

"The Libertarian Party calls on President Obama to end the drone war in Yemen immediately," said Neale. "This will stop the carnage, stop breeding new terrorists, stop this unconstitutional war, and make peace in the Middle East possible."

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Libertarian Party—issued news release: Republicans refuse to end Obamacare immediately

When President Obama announced on July 2 that the employer mandate for Obamacare would be postponed for another year, he opened the door for one more Republican opportunity to repeal this destructive and costly program.

Will they seize this opportunity? No. Big Government Republicans posture, pose, and pretend to cut destructive programs and harmful laws, but almost never vote to simply end them.

Why won't they repeal Obamacare? Because they're in the pocket of the medical-industrial complex, which includes pharmaceuticals, insurance companies, large incorporated hospital chains, government employees, and the American Medical Association.

How do we know Republicans won't repeal it? Because they have had a majority in the House since 2010, with more than enough votes to defund any Big Government program. Their refusal to defund Obamacare shows they want to keep it — or a replacement for it — on the books.

"When they talk about repealing Obamacare, they say that we need to 'start over' or 'start from scratch' —

"Delaying Obamacare is simply a stay of execution for struggling small businesses and health care consumers in America," said Carla Howell, director for the Libertarian Party. "Defund and repeal it now."

signaling that they'll replace Obamacare with Republicare — their version of centrally planned government medicine," said Carla Howell, political director of the Libertarian Party. "There's only one way to pressure Republicans to stop this country's fast march to a complete government takeover of medicine: Vote Libertarian."

Both Republicans and Democrats have voted to massively expand government-run medical care. Mitt Romney, former Massachusetts governor and 2012 Republican presidential nominee, championed Romneycare, the model for Obamacare. In 2003, President George W. Bush and Republicans in Congress championed the largest expansion of Medicare since its inception.

Big Government health care programs have been disastrous. They balloon medical care costs, create longer waits for doctor visits and procedures, drive up insurance premiums, regularly deny insurance coverage for needed services, kill small businesses, destroy jobs, and cause immeasurable human pain and suffering.

"The only path to high-quality, convenient, dignified, and affordable health care is through private charities and businesses," said Geoffrey J. Neale, chair of the Libertarian Party. "It's time to strike a fatal blow against Obamacare and unleash the private sector to resolve our health care problems quickly, cheaply, and effectively."

The Libertarian Party is the only political party in America that has consistently called for ending government central planning of health care.

There's now talk of delaying the individual mandate portion of Obamacare along with delay of the employer mandate.

"Delaying Obamacare is a stay of execution for struggling small businesses and health care consumers in America," said Howell. "Defund and repeal it now."

The Libertarian difference: Proposing specific actions to shrink government

Most Americans want what Libertarians offer: freedom, low taxes, small government, and peace. Both Democratic and Republican politicians know this, so they often try to sound libertarian. They sometimes do it so well you might catch yourself thinking they *are* libertarian.

But, if you listen carefully, you'll find that they talk in platitudes. They're careful to use vague, meaningless rhetoric that promises nothing — except more Big Government.

Democrats and Republicans say they're "against high taxes" and "want peace," and that they want to "cut government waste." They say they're for "freedom," "tax relief," "keeping taxes down," "cutting spending," "removing unnecessary regulations," and every other cliché that describes the *opposite* of what they actually do.

Libertarian themes ran through many of President George W. Bush's State of the Union speeches. It won him points with independent and libertarian-leaning voters.

But Bush was a Big Government politician. His signature jump-started



**Late U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy
For "tax relief"??**

the 2008–2009 bailout frenzy. He raised the Alternative Minimum Tax, raised government spending, drove up government debt, signed into law the largest expansion of Medicare since its inception, signed the Patriot Act, sustained the

failed drug prohibition, and started two wars.

How can Libertarians show voters that they're vastly different from Freedom Frauds? By promising to take specific actions to make government small — that Big Government politicians are sure to *oppose*.

The late Senator Ted Kennedy said he wanted "tax relief for the middle class." But he was a notorious tax hiker, which is why he avoided specific promises, such as, "I will introduce legislation to end the federal income tax now."

President Bush said he was "against nation-building." But he would never say, "I will close 300 foreign military bases and outposts, bring 250,000 troops home for good, and cut military spending by 50 percent within the next year."

When a Libertarian proposes specific measures like these, Democrats and Republicans will almost certainly oppose them. It forces them to take a public stand against shrinking government — and to reveal their true colors. Voters can then see that when a Democrat or Republican claims to be for "tax relief" or "peace" —

it's malarkey.

Promising specific actions to shrink Big Government almost guarantees that the Libertarian will distinguish himself as the *only* freedom candidate in a race.

In the rare case that the Democrat or Republican agrees to support a Libertarian's specific proposal for less government, it means that the Libertarian candidate sold his small government proposal so effectively that he managed to influence government policy in a libertarian direction. This is a huge victory for liberty — whether or not he gets elected!

Specific campaign promises also spark the passion of freedom lovers who desperately want to reduce and remove Big Government. They can see that the candidate is serious about making government small, which makes them more likely to join the Libertarian Party and to support and donate to Libertarian campaigns.

Campaigning on specific actions to reduce government unmasks the parade of deceit and senseless banter that typifies most elections in America — and turns them into a rallying cry for liberty.

LP solution to growing physician shortage: **Allow affordable, safe self-care**

Based on a proposal in “The Looming Doctor Shortage,” Life Extension Magazine, March 2013, by William Faloon, Editor.

The Association of American Medical Colleges estimates that within two years the United States will have 62,900 fewer doctors than needed. By 2025, the shortfall of doctors will exceed 100,000.

The physician shortage already causes delays in getting appointments, jammed waiting rooms, and more waiting in exam rooms. It forces patients to drive long distances, overuse emergency rooms and forgo needed care.

Delaying treatment of minor problems can turn them into expensive, major medical problems, placing an even greater financial burden on future health care payers.

With clogged schedules, doctors don't have enough time with their patients to provide optimal health care, which leads to more bad outcomes. Many physician practices are already closed. Over 50% of primary care doctors now turn down new Medicaid patients.

The overload of patients is causing doctors to burn out. A national survey by the Mayo Clinic showed that 46% of physicians already suffer a symptom of burnout. This increases the risk of medical errors and bad outcomes, pushes doctors into early retirement, and causes problems in their personal lives.

As the population ages, the problem will get worse, especially if Obamacare goes into effect. The “Affordable Care” Act could hand out medical insurance to 30,000,000 people who are currently uninsured, creating even greater physician shortages and more health care rationing in the



form of delays and insufficient treatment.

Increasing the supply of physicians in the near term is not possible given the eight years required to get through medical school and internship. Plus, a government mandate to add more doctors would unnecessarily drive up the cost of medical care, which is already unaffordable, even more. This would lead to more individual and business insolvencies and give politicians a pretext for higher government spending, higher taxes, and more government debt.

There is no choice but to find alternatives to the developing crisis of doctor shortages. We need dramatic and immediate changes to avoid more harm.

A Libertarian Solution is to open up the free mar-

ket by easing restrictions on self-care, including self-prescribing drugs and test kits.

Many medicines that currently require a physician's prescription can be safely dispensed by pharmacists, eliminating the need for doctors to waste their time on minor problems.

Start by removing regulations on prescription drugs, test supplies, and testing equipment for common conditions for which self-diagnosis and treatment are easiest and safest. For example:

- care for urinary tract infections
- monitoring and control of hypertension (high blood pressure)
- monitoring and control of LDL/cholesterol levels

Self-care for these ailments will eliminate the need for millions of unneeded physician visits—over eight million for urinary tract infections alone—and save billions of dollars. Every year.

Self-care will be much more than a convenience for patients now struggling to see a doctor. Millions of people will be spared needless suffering, and in some cases, their lives. Self-monitoring allows far better control of blood pressure, which will result in fewer fatal or debilitating strokes and heart attacks.

Removing government regulations on self-care will make doctors' jobs less stressful and more satisfying. Instead of treating routine health conditions that grossly underutilize their training and skills, they can focus on more complex and challenging health problems. This will make them better healers and allow them to help ensure their patients get the care they need.

Kaplan for NJ governor

...continued from page 4

party candidates prevails in November.

“New Jersey's broad-based taxes are out of control. We are drowning in a sea of property taxes, income taxes, and sales taxes,” he said, recalling that when he was a child, New Jersey did not have either an income or sales tax.

He attributes the ever-increasing tax burden to “the tremendous growth of the state government” that needs to be cut drastically.

Kaplan believes the state needs to move away from broad-based taxes to user fees that would be paid only for services that are actually used.

That way, he argued, some services currently performed by the state government would be taken over by the private sector, which would make government smaller and enable New Jersey to cut spending.

“It will also give individuals the power to save money by not paying for services they don't want or don't need,”

he explained. “The rate of the income tax can be stepped down in tandem with each reduction in the size of government until that tax vanishes. Then we can get to work reducing the sales tax.”

Kaplan said that the New Jersey government contains many layers of bureaucracy, from the bloated state government and regulatory agencies to county and municipal governments, as well as relatively autonomous groups like public school boards. These overlapping levels of authority, he says, lead to tremendous redundancy and waste.

“I would eliminate county government entirely,” Kaplan noted. “Some of what the counties do would revert to the state, and some of what the counties do would be done through ad hoc regionalization.”

Cities that have adjacent interests may find it worthwhile to combine services, he pointed out.

A strong supporter of gay marriage, Kaplan drew a sharp distinction between his position on the issue and that of Gov. Christie, who in February 2012 vetoed a bill that

would have legalized same sex marriage in New Jersey. Kaplan argued that under his governorship, things would be different.

“All New Jersey citizens should enjoy the same rights,” he insisted. “Such a law would not require any religious denomination to recognize or perform such marriages, but it would allow them to do so. Civil marriages would be available to all as a matter of right.”

Facing criticism on the campaign trail, Gov. Christie recently moved to relax the state medical marijuana law, making it easier for chronically ill children to use it as part of their treatment. But Christie would still require a pediatrician and a psychiatrist to approve it, and he insisted that edible forms of marijuana be dispensed only to minors, not to patients of all ages.

By contrast, Kaplan proposes unequivocal marijuana legalization.

“This is an issue of personal freedom,” Kaplan said. “Whether or not marijuana is good for anyone is irrelevant. Every adult should have the right to make his or her own choices as to what to ingest

— be it alcohol, marijuana, nicotine, or cherry pie. Let our drug laws continue to protect children, but let adults have freedom of choice.”

With the major media still focused on the Republican and Democratic candidates, Kaplan does not shy away from campaigning door to door, holding rallies, and pressing the flesh. The Internet and social media platforms offer additional opportunities.

He does not expect to be invited to the televised gubernatorial debates because, as in many other states, the New Jersey electoral system is stacked against small-party candidates. Under state rules, a candidate must raise and spend at least \$380,000 to qualify for public funding and, subsequently, an invitation to the debates.

“I have not raised that kind of money, nor do I expect to,” Kaplan pointed out.

But he counts on the disillusionment of many New Jersey residents with the choices offered by the two major parties.

“A vote for Ken Kaplan is a statement that you will no longer choose between the lesser of two evils,” he said.

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A list of Libertarian events can be found online at LP.org/event. You can get more information by visiting the website of your state affiliate. (See a list at LP.org/states.) If there is an event you would like to see listed on the website, please send details to:

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Libertarian Party at FreedomFest 'Dangerous to Big Government'

FreedomFest was well represented by members of the Libertarian National Committee and LP headquarters staff members, who manned a booth at the four-day July event at the Planet Hollywood Resort in Las Vegas.

"Despite the fact that 98 percent of the speakers at this event were Republican, I was surprised how many attendees were not just libertarian but hard-core libertarian," said staffer Bob Johnston, who manned the booth with Operations Director Robert Kraus.

More than 2,000 participants watched an entertaining mock trial in the main ballroom of FreedomFest aimed at deciding whether the Republican Party should be put to rest. Conservative media pundit Steve Moore played prosecuting attorney and made the case for convicting the GOP as "guilty." The crowd laughed — and groaned — as he laid out the Republican Party's embarrassing Big Government track record over the last few decades.

The trial culminated with a hung jury, reflecting both the Republican loyalties of many key speakers and organizers, and the deep dissatisfaction with the GOP among FreedomFest attendees.

LP Chair Geoffrey Neale was a featured speaker at a well-attended breakout session titled "Be Dangerous to Big Government," emceed by LNC member Michael Cloud. The session was followed by a VIP reception hosted by the LP.

"The libertarian movement is the most dangerous movement in the country today ... to those who have rigged the game for their own interests," Neale said. "But we're



LNC Chair Geoffrey Neale at FreedomFest

not dangerous enough; we need to be more dangerous."

He called for unity within the greater libertarian movement in order to be dangerous to Big Government, noting that the opposition "wants us to keep arguing about nits while they're over there digging our mass grave."

Carla Howell, LP political director, also spoke, calling for support of Libertarian campaigns to be dangerous to Big Government.

"So long as they can convince a majority that they must vote Democrat or Republican, they can guarantee that Big Government politicians will be elected. It's the perfect manipulation to keep Big Government big."

"In order to be dangerous to Big Government, we must run candidates for office that promise to substantially shrink Big Government, support those campaigns, and vote Libertarian," she said.

Media Buzz About the Libertarian Party

"It's now Authoritarian vs. Libertarian. Since Democrats vs. Republicans has been obliterated, no real difference between parties... Why would anyone vote Republican? Please give reason. Raised taxes; marching us off to war again; approved more NSA snooping. WHO ARE THEY?!"

Matt Drudge (Drudge Report), 9/3/2013

"The Libertarians are ready to rumble," (regarding opposition to Syria).

Washington Times, 9/5/2013

"It seems that only the Libertarian Party is willing to champion [the] long-standing principle of a peaceful foreign policy."

Hampton Union (Letter), 9/3/2013

"The Libertarian Party is the most established of Wyoming's minor parties, and it has retained ballot access for more than two decades."

Wyoming Tribune, 9/10/2013

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December 7–8, 2013

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What have you missed recently on LP.org?

- Libertarian Party applauds DOMA strikedown
- Snowden should be rewarded as a hero, say LP poll respondents
- Government phone, Internet snooping demands immediate, dramatic downsizing of all spy agencies, repeal of Patriot Act, FISA, NDAA
- Newsmax: Libertarians See Political Gains in NSA Leak Debacle
- Libertarian Michael Brennan hopes to slash millions in proposed county spending
- Libertarian candidate for Detroit city clerk aims to empower voters with transparency, fairness
- Libertarian response to question about whether President Barack Obama's vacation is overly extravagant
- Will record low approval ratings for Democrats and Republicans mean more Libertarian votes?